

outwardly of said first portion (27), (to define an uppermost surface, a barrel lid (12) covering the open end of the barrel in a closed position of the lid, said lid having a central section and an outer peripheral lid edge (16) which in cross-section defines a downwardly facing U-shaped part overlying said upper barrel edge (28), a U-shaped tension-ring closure member (14), which in said closed position of the lid engages with an upper leg of said-tension ring closure member over an upwardly facing surface of said outer lid edge (16) and engages with a lower leg of said tension-ring closure member under said downwardly facing surface (18) that extends below said uppermost surface of the upper barrel edge (28), the improvement comprising:

- a) an exterior rib (40), said rib (40) defining part of said barrel edge and having both an upper surface and a lower surface projecting radially outwardly beyond said first and second portions with said lower surface of said rib disposed along said downwardly facing surface (18) and defining a continuing part of said downwardly facing surface (18), said rib (40) terminating in a free end surface connecting said upper and lower surfaces.

5. (Amended) An open top plastic drum, comprising:

- a) a drum body having:
- i) a closed bottom;
 - ii) a substantially axially symmetrical sidewall extending upwardly from said bottom; and
 - iii) a chime portion for receiving a removable cover, said chime portion extending from said sidewall so as to define an open top and including:
 - (1) a substantially radial first chime wall projecting outwardly from said sidewall and having a bottom surface,
 - (2) a substantially cylindrical second chime wall directed upwardly from an outer portion of said first chime wall and having a lower portion contiguous with adjacent said first chime wall, and
 - (3) an exterior circumferential rib extending from the first chime wall below the second chime wall;

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- b) a cover having a peripheral chime receiving member that includes a circumferential flange having an inner diameter larger than said second chime wall but less than said circumferential rib; and
 - c) a retaining ring having first and second legs fixedly connected by an intermediate band, wherein said first leg engages an outer surface of said peripheral chime receiving member directly above said second chime wall, and wherein said second leg engages the bottom portions of said rib and said first chime wall directly below said second chime wall.
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(Amended) An open top plastic drum, comprising:

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- a) a blow-molded drum body having:
 - i) a closed bottom;
 - ii) a substantially axially symmetrical sidewall extending upwardly from said bottom, and
 - iii) a chime portion for receiving a removable cover, said chime portion extending from said sidewall so as to define an open top and including:
 - (1) a substantially radial first chime wall projecting outwardly from said sidewall and having a bottom surface,
 - (2) a substantially cylindrical second chime wall directed upwardly from an outer portion of said first chime wall and having a lower portion contiguous with adjacent said first chime wall, and
 - (3) an exterior circumferential rib having a bottom surface that is substantially coplanar with said first wall and substantially perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of the container circumscribing said lower portion of said second chime wall, whereby the rib increases the moment of inertia of the chime portion and thus provides greater rigidity to said chime portion;
 - b) a cover having a peripheral chime receiving member that includes a circumferential flange having an inner diameter larger than said second chime

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a wall but less than said circumferential rib, so as to extend only over an upper portion of said second chime wall but not over said rib;

- c) a retaining ring having first and second legs fixedly connected by an intermediate band, wherein said first leg engages an outer surface of said peripheral chime receiving member directly above said second chime wall and wherein said second leg engages the bottom portions of said rib and said first chime wall directly below said second chime wall such that the length of engagement of the lower leg of the ring with the chime portion is increased and the ring has increased resistance to deformation and sliding from the chime if the drum is dropped.
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Please add the following new claim:

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a 15. (New) An open drum as defined in claim 5 wherein said rib has a top surface substantially parallel to said bottom surface.
16. (New) An open drum as defined in claim 5, wherein the open drum is blow-molded.
17. (New) An open drum as defined in claim 5, wherein the exterior circumferential rib has a bottom surface that is substantially coplanar with said first wall.
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